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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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TWO INFLUENZA CASES CONFIRMED IN WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Division of Public Health has received a report from the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene of the first laboratory-confirmed case of influenza type A (H3N2) acquired in Wisconsin. The patient, a 42 year-old man who resides in Kenosha County, became ill on November 25. He had not been vaccinated against influenza and had no history of travel outside of Wisconsin during the week prior to illness onset. The patient has made a complete recovery and was not hospitalized. A second influenza A isolate was identified by the City of Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory from a 20-year old University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee student.

The City of Milwaukee Health Department is encouraging people to get vaccinated. Individuals most in need of the influenza vaccine are health-care workers and persons who can spread the influenza virus to those at high-risk of complications from influenza infection. This group includes physicians, nurses, and other personnel in both hospital and outpatient-care settings including first response workers, employees of nursing homes and chronic-care facilities who have contact with patients or residents, employees of assisted living and other residences for persons in high-risk groups, persons who provide home care to persons in high risk groups, and household members (including children aged six months to 18 years) of persons in high-risk groups.

Signs and symptoms of the flu include: a fever up to 104 degrees, sweating, chills and severe muscle aches. Flu symptoms can also include dry cough, nasal congestion, sore throat, headache, and fatigue.

There is no shortage of the influenza vaccine this year. Individuals interested in obtaining a vaccination should contact their primary care physicians or medical provider for an appointment. Also, those who do not have a primary care physician or are uninsured may contact the City of Milwaukee Health Department's flu hotline at 414-286-3616, Monday- Friday from 8:15- 4:30 p.m. for information regarding clinics that may be conducted in the near future or visit our website at www.milwaukee.gov/citygov/health/flu2002

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